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history of the higher criticism, with its new interpretation of the Scriptures. On the whole, it is a readable, reliable book, made especially attractive by the numerous full-page illustrations in color.

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A NEW THEORY CONCERNING THE ORIGIN OF THE MIRACLE PLAY. By George R. Coffman. University of Chicago Dissertation. Menosha, Wisconsin: George Banta Publishing Company.

The author defines a Miracle Play as "the dramatization of a legend setting fourth the life or the martyrdom of a saint." After briefly summarizing and rejecting the traditional theories which found the germ of the Miracle Play in the Church services, Mr. Coffman treats at some length the cult of the saints, including pilgrimages and festivals in their honor. Though admitting that the Church had a large share in the growth of such pilgrimages and festivals, and that "the immediate environment of the Miracle Play in its origin is the monastery," he emphasizes the "unecclesiastical" influences of the mediæval renaissance, and asserts, with little direct evidence to support his assertions, that "our earliest Miracle Plays developed in connection with monastic schools," and that these plays were "one expression of the eleventh and twelfth-century movement to free the drama from the Church." More specifically Mr. Coffman, again basing his conclusion on assumption rather than fact, declares that "the Miracle Play originated as an unecclesiastical feature of St. Nicholas' feast-day celebration." Attractive and probable as such theories are, they should be supported by greater weight of evidence than that brought forward in this pamphlet. Mr. Coffman promises to make further investigations into the subject and will doubtless bring out additional material to strengthen or modify his position.

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THE EVERYMAN ENCYCLOPÆDIA. Compiled by Andrew Boyle. In twelve volumes. New York: E. P. Dutton & Company. \$6.00.

This handy set of reference books is based on Knight's Encyclopædia, which in its turn was derived from the great Penny Encyclopædia. The original basis, however, had to be so altered

and amended that this is practically a new work. For the purpose of ready reference the subjects have been subdivided and the headings have been multiplied as far as possible "without disintegrating any general subject that should be treated as a whole." With its volumes uniform in size and appearance with the well-known Everyman's Library, this Encyclopædia is moderate in price, well arranged for rapid reference, and reliable and up-to-date in its information.

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THE WAYFARER'S LIBRARY.—*The Lure of the Wanderer*, by George Goodchild; *The Open Air*, by Richard Jeffries; *The Wooden Horse*, by Hugh Walpole. New York: E. P. Dutton & Company. 40 cents each.

The purpose of this library is to furnish in handy shape and at a reasonable price "the books which represent the imagination, the romance, and the lighter thought of our time. Its object is to provide recreation and enjoyment for the reader in the winter by the ingle-nook, and under the shade of summer boughs, and particularly when traveling." For the wayfarer or the leisurely reader in the summer shade few better selections could be had than the open-air anthology of Mr. Goodchild or the sketches of that nature-lover, Richard Jeffries; and for the chimney-corner in winter,—if such a place is still to be found,—Hugh Walpole's romance, a study of Cornish life and character, will prove profitable company.

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ANGELA'S BUSINESS. By Henry Sydnor Harrison. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co.

*Angela's Business* is disappointing, and it might as well be acknowledged at the beginning. Taking a theme that had already more than exhausted the skill of such an ardent suffragette and capable novelist as Miss Mary Johnston, Mr. Harrison has produced a book that will cause the reader continual groaning, and at times disgust. This is the more unfortunate because the novel is written with much of the author's usual breeziness, sly humor, and polished style. If it had been offered as a mere potboiler the case would have been different. But the book was written with a serious purpose in view and the individual peruser of it must, of his or her accord, curse the day Angela was born.